

DEC 08 2006

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Dated: December 8, 2006, 2006 Signature:

  
(Kathryn L. Nash)Docket No.: 65783-0029  
(PATENT)**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Joseph T. O'Brien, et al.

Application No.: 10/621,629

Confirmation No.: 1873

Filed: July 17, 2003

Art Unit: 3679

For: PILLAR SHIELD FOR SECURING A WIRE  
HARNES

Examiner: Victor L. MacArthur

**REPLY BRIEF**

MS Appeal Brief - Patents  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Honorable Sir:

This is a Reply Brief submitted pursuant to 37 CFR § 41.41 in response to the Examiner's Answer dated October 11, 2006. The Examiner's Answer responded to Appellants' Second Amended Appeal Brief, filed August 11, 2006 (hereinafter the "Appeal Brief").

Claims 1-12 and 17- 29 are pending. Claim 29 is allowed. Claims 1-12 and 17-28, which are reproduced in the Claims Appendix attached hereto, have been rejected and are the subject of this appeal.

The Final Office Action rejected claims 1-5, 7-12, 17-21 and 23-28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,488,206 to Mizusawa. The Final Office Action further rejected claims 6 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizusawa in view of Appellants' admitted prior art (Figures and 2).